

**STATEMENT OF CHERYL MILLS IN RESPONSE TO REPORT OF INDEPENDENT
COUNSEL CAROL ELDER BRUCE REGARDING SECRETARY BRUCE BABBITT**

Comment Regarding page 182, footnote 296 of Report

Senior Associate Independent Counsel Philip Inglima of the Office of Independent Counsel Bruce (OIC) asked to interview Ms. Mills about the Hudson casino matter and outlined the kind of information the OIC would seek from her. Counsel's Office staff, including Ms. Mills, spoke directly to Mr. Inglima on several occasions to advise him that Ms. Mills had no factual information about this matter, and that any area of inquiry that might arise in an interview of Ms. Mills would implicate executive privilege. As a result of these conversations, Mr. Inglima decided to submit a set of interrogatories designed to establish that Ms. Mills indeed did not possess any non-publicly available factual information about the Hudson casino matter.

On June 15, 1999, Mr. Inglima sent those interrogatories to Ms. Mills. Over the next several weeks, Mr. Inglima was informed that Ms. Mills was out of the office on travel and that, subsequent to her return, the Counsel's Office was in the midst of a personnel transition with the departure of Counsel to the President Charles F.C. Ruff, which required Ms. Mills' full attention. As soon as practicably possible, Ms. Mills submitted to the OIC sworn and complete answers to these interrogatories that established that she did not possess any such factual information. The OIC neither commented on Ms. Mills' responses nor requested any additional information from her.